

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method to manage a change to a product structure, the method comprising:

defining, at a computer, a change order comprising instructions to implement the change to the product structure, the change order requiring a first validity indication and a second validity indication, the first validity indication associated with a first organizational structure having a first organizational view allowed to access a first set of data stored according to the product data structure, and the second validity indication associated with a second organizational structure having a second organizational view allowed to access a second set of data stored according to the product data structure, the second set of data being different from the first set of data;

providing the first validity indication based on: ~~associating a first validity for the change with a first organizational structure, the first organizational structure having a first organizational view of the product structure, the first validity determining if~~

a determination that the change is allowed by the first organizational structure,
and

a defined time period when the instructions to implement the change are
executable; affect the product structure;

providing the second validity indication based on: ~~associating a second validity for the change with a second organizational structure, the second organizational structure having a second organizational view of the product structure, the second validity determining if~~

a determination that the change is allowed by the second organizational structure,
[[and]]

a defined time period when the instructions to implement the change are executable, ~~affect the product structure, the second validity depending on the first validity;~~ and

the provision of the first validity indication; and

automatically implementing the change, at the computer, according to the first validity indication for the first organizational view[[,]] and according to the second validity indication for the second organizational view.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein defining the change order instructions to implement the change of the product structure includes defining instructions to change a plurality of different objects of the product structure.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first validity indication and the second validity indication ~~validities~~ depends on a date.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first validity indication and the second validity indication ~~validities~~ is valid beginning with a first date and ending with a second date.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first organizational structure and the second organizational structure ~~organizational structures~~ comprise a hierarchy of organizational structures.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first validity indicator and the second validity indicator ~~validities~~ depends on attaining a production milestone.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first validity indicator and the second validity indicator ~~validities~~ depends on implementing a different change to the product structure.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a previous validity indicator is associated with the change and wherein defining instructions to implement the change includes defining instructions for modifying the previous validity.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the change includes previous instructions for changing the product structure and wherein defining instructions to implement the change includes defining instructions for modifying the previous instructions.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first validity indicator precedes the second validity indicator.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the second validity indicator is dependent upon the first validity indicator and contemporaneous with the first validity indicator.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the instructions to implement the change to the product structure, the first validity indicator, and the second validity indicator in a first database, wherein the product structure is stored in a second database, the second database being separate from the first database.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a request to make a change to a product structure.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the change order comprises the first validity indicator, the second validity indicator, and a name of a user who determined that the requested change should be implemented, the method further comprising:

determining whether the change should be implemented; and

~~generating a change order to implement the change, the change order including the instructions to implement the change of the product structure, the first validity, the second validity, and a name of a user who determined that the requested change should be implemented;~~
and

storing the change order in a first database, wherein the product structure is stored in a second database, the second database being separate from the first database.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly stored on a non-transitory machine readable medium, for managing a change of a product structure, the computer program product comprising instructions for causing a processor to perform operations comprising:

define a change order comprising instructions to implement the change of the product structure, the change order requiring a first validity indication and a second validity indication, the first validity indication associated with a first organizational structure having a first organizational view allowed to access a first set of data stored according to the product data structure, and the second validity indication associated with a second organizational structure having a second organizational view allowed to access a second set of data stored according to the product data structure, the second set of data being different from the first set of data;

providing the first validity indication based on: ~~associate a first validity for the change with a first organizational structure, the first organizational structure having a first organizational view of the product structure, the first validity determining if~~

a determination that the change is allowed by the first organizational structure,
and

a defined time period when the instructions to implement the change are executable; ~~affect the product structure;~~

providing the second validity indication based on: ~~associate a second validity for the change with a second organizational structure, the second organizational structure having a second organizational view of the product structure, the second validity determining if~~

a determination that the change is allowed by the second organizational structure,
[[and]]

a defined time period when the instructions to implement the change are executable, ~~affect the product structure, the second validity depending on the first validity;~~ and

the provision of the first validity indication; and

automatically implement the change according to the first validity for the first validity indication for the first organizational view[[,]] and according to the second validity indication for the second organizational view.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein defining the change order instructions to implement the change of the product structure includes defining instructions to change a plurality of different objects of the product structure.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein at least one of the first validity indication and the second validity indication ~~validities~~ depends on a date.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein at least one of the first validity indication and the second validity indication ~~validities~~ is valid beginning with a first date and ending with a second date.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the first organizational structure and the second organizational structure ~~organizational-structures~~ comprise a hierarchy of organizational structures.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein at least one of the first validity indication and the second validity indication ~~validities~~ depends on attaining a production milestone.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein at least one of the first validity indication and the second validity indication ~~validities~~ depends on implementing a different change to the product structure.
22. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein a previous validity indication is associated with the change and wherein defining instructions to implement the change includes defining instructions for modifying the previous validity indication.
23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the change includes previous instructions for changing the product structure and wherein defining instructions to implement the change includes defining instructions for modifying the previous instructions.
24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the first validity indication precedes the second validity indication.
25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the second validity indication is dependent upon the first validity indication and contemporaneous with the first validity indication.
26. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, the computer program product further comprises instructions for causing the processor to store the instructions to implement the change to the product structure, the first validity indication, and the second validity indication in a first database, wherein the product structure is stored in a second database, the second database being separate from the first database.

27. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising instructions for causing the processor to receive a request to make a change to a product structure.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the change order comprises the first validity indicator, the second validity indicator, and a name of a user who determined that the requested change should be implemented, the computer program product further comprising instructions for causing the processor to:

receive a user-defined determination of whether the change should be implemented; and

~~generate a change order to implement the change, the change order including the instructions to implement the change of the product structure, the first validity, the second validity, and a name of a user who determined that the requested change should be implemented; and~~

store the change order in a first database, wherein the product structure is stored in a second database, the second database being separate from the first database.